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INCOMING TELEGRAM

SECRET

AMERICAN EMBASSY, PARIS

R

ACTION: AMS

INFO:
BRUCE
EF

CONTROL 1895

Recd Mar 24, 1954
3:23PM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY CXC DATE 7-1-81

XDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS2PMH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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RELEASE DENIED☐

FROM: BONN

ACTION: WASHINGTON

INFO: PARIS NIACT 590, March 24, 2PM

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NIACT SENT DEPT 2959 RPTD INFO NIACT LONDON 4910 NIACT PARIS 590.

FOR SECRETARY FROM CONANT AND BRUCE.

We believe situation here so serious it requires your personal intervention. We have just returned from conversation lasting over hour with Vice-Chancellor Bluecher and several of his assistants including his legal adviser.

Bleucher reports events of last two weeks involving French objections to prompt approval constitutional amendment and yesterdays coupling of it with demands for signature protocols by Chancellor on auth granted by House have received such wide and adverse publicity in Germany that atmosphere embittered. This endangers not only future Franco-German relationship but also prestige Chancellor. This parliamentary opponents as well as public opinion in general will increasingly regard association of two French demands as being blackmail.

Blankenhorn has twice recently urged Chancellor to send word to Bidault asking for meeting on Saar almost immediately after Adenauer's return here Saturday night. Chancellor apparently unwilling do so unless matter of amendments and protocol signatures first settled. Vice-Chancellor stated government so weakened by recent developments Adenauer's ability to carry through his previous intentions re Saar settlement appreciably diminished and his own (Bluecher's) political standing greatly damaged by apparent impotence of Bonn government to achieve reasonable arrangement with French on constitutional amendments. Since Bluecher represents FDP party, ability to hold that party in line for Saar settlement has been materially and adversely affected.

Previous cables have indicated the resentment engendered by failure of AHC to agree to approval of parliamentary action on amendments. The calculated Quai D'Orsay leak which couples

/matter of amendment

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matter of amendments with demand re nature signature protocols is having serious influence on domestic politics here and threatens to divide coalition parties and even split Chancellors own party. State of excitement has been aroused which given nature of German temperament may well explode in undesirable ways with increasing bitterness. We feel resolution of AHC position on amendmetns must be achieved within 48 hours at latest.

Ast to protocols, French position clearly unreasonable as Germans insist del of auth from Heuss to Adenauer for signature would involve submission to Bundestag which all agree politically impracticable and undesirable. Would also involve whole question of interpretation of Chancellor's constitutional powers and serve if acceded to as precedent for future demands by a Chancellor for delegations of powers. Adenauer has gone, in our opinion, as far as he can be expected to proceed in offering to sign either as Chancellor or as For Min. It was clearly stated by French when protocls were submitted to interim committee that they were of interpretive nature. It was also understood during action on EDC treaties taken by other parls that they were of interpretive character only. Furthermore, it was understanding of all parties to EDC treaty that manner in which protocols were to be handled by interested government would be done in light of constitutional requirements of each country. The French are now attempting to elevate the protocols to a status where they might be considered amendatory to rather than interpretive of the treaty. This is dangerous even in France.

In view of the urgency of the present dilemma which can only be solved by immediate reversal of present French official attitude, suggest you consider sending telegram today message to be delivered verbatim to Bidault essentially as follows:

"I am deeply distrubed over situation which has arisen in re to AHC approval of recmat amendments to German constitution enabling President Heuss to sign the Paris and Bonn treaties. Since our three governments have always maintained Bonn government had the power to ratify these treaties in spite opposition case in constitution courts, we have welcomed clarification of constitutional problem by action of Bundestag and Bundesrat. The HICOMers are now agreed on language of a letter whby which AHC may act on these amendments enablin Heuss to sign treaties at once without creating false public impression that Germans are permitted to rearm before EDC comes into effect. The introduction by the French Government of signature of protocols as a pre-condition to French HICOMers joining with the British and French in this action creates a most dangerous situation and would put all of us in position of trying to defend an impossible case.

/"It is our

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"Itis our position first that protocols should not be linked with action of AHC on amendments and second that French proposal that President Heuss authorize Chancellor to sign protocols is not in accord with understnading that protocols would be dealt with according to constitutional requirements of each participating nation. Other parliaments have acted on the assumption that protocols were interpretive and that requirementsof each country would be construed by that country in light of its own constitutional practices. I am convinced on the basis of reports from London, Paris, and Bonn that unless the AHC acts on constitutional amendments tonight or tomorrow the German situation will have so deteriorated as to make Chancellor's position on his return so difficult that he will be without authority to proceed even if he wishes to negotiate Saar settlement on basis acceptable to your (French Govt).

"I ask you with the utmost seriousness to consider instructing your allied HICOMer to agree with his British and American colleagues at once on vote in favor of AHC action on amendments in exact form which the three Allied HICOMers were prepared to sign yesterday."

We have discussed procedural problem with Ambassador Dillon over phone and he agrees only effective course is for him to deliver verbatim text of message from you to Bidault. In our opinon further Saar negotiations impossible until these constitutional amendments settled, and every days delay makes atmosphere for final Saar settlement worse.

Have placed phone to you or Merchant this subject this afternoon 5 (11AM Washington time).

CONANT

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